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Technical Assistance Grant No. 693JK31742011

Final Progress report

The U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) awarded the Pipeline Safety Trust a Technical Assistance Grant to increase the understanding among involved staff and thought leaders from tribal and local governments, and environmental and community organizations about the main risks from and to pipelines, and how pipelines are constructed, operated, maintained, inspected, and regulated. The stated program outputs from the grant proposal are below, with discussion of the work performed during the grant period following each expected output. This grant was extended twice with a final ending date of 9/28/2019.

1. Arranging and customizing a three-day intensive training session lead by industry professionals (RCP Inc - http://www.rcp.com/) with participation from others in the pipeline industry and PHMSA.

In October of 2017 we negotiated and entered into a contract with RCP to provide a three-day pipeline safety training for between 20-30 individuals. The normal cost of such training at RCP is $2000/person, but in support of this project they offered us a rate of $650/person, with a total contract amount not to exceed $20,500. The general outline for the training was as follows:

1. Why have pipelines?
2. The different types of pipelines (production, gathering, transmission, distribution), with an emphasis on the difference between gas and liquid; and transmission and distribution
3. The historical safety record of pipelines
4. The regulatory scheme for pipelines (who regulates what, and when) at the federal and state level
5. PHMSA regulations – scope and major programs required; Inspections and Enforcement programs and trends
6. The major pieces and parts of a pipeline system: Storage, pipe, pumps, compressors, valves, meters, instrumentation / SCADA
7. The design, construction, and initial testing of pipelines

8. Operator Qualification
9. Pipeline corrosion control programs
10. Pipeline monitoring, operation, and control (local / control room / SCADA)
11. Pipeline ROW patrol programs and requirements
12. Public Awareness programs and coordination with government officials / others
13. In-line inspections (ILI): how do they work and what do they do?
14. The various types of leak detection systems and how they work
15. Emergency response planning requirements: 49 CFR 192 and 195; and OPA 90 in 49 CFR 194.

On the last day of the training we also arranged for an additional tour of the control room at CenterPoint Energy, which also included discussion with a variety of CenterPoint staff.

2. Using our national contacts to choose and enlist 20-30 key individuals from tribal or local governments, or environmental or community organizations, who have a desire to learn more about the specifics of pipeline safety operations and regulation.

In early November of 2017 we designed and launched an online application form for people interested in participating in the Houston pipeline safety training. We also sent an email notice out to several hundred contacts we have, and posted the training opportunity on our listservs and Facebook page. In the end we received 60 complete applications. We then narrowed the applicants down to about 30 people by prioritizing people who work for organizations over concerned individuals, are likely to have a long term interest in pipelines, and have the potential for leadership in pipeline safety conversations in their communities. Of the 30 we invited 27 confirmed participation and received approval to participate from their organizations. In the month before the actual training 3 confirmed participants had to cancel due to illnesses or job conflicts leaving 24 actual people that took the training. We also tried to ensure a diversity of participants from organizational types and geographic locations. The 24 trainees came from 19 different states. Here is a list of trainees.

Trainee Name	***Organization and Title***	***State***
Barbara Arrindell	Director, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability	PA
Ben Cunningham	Friends of Nelson, Vice President	VA
Bob Shavelson	Cook Inletkeeper, Advocacy Director	AK
Chad Thompson	Portland Water District, Source Protection Coordinator	ME
Chuck Lesniak	City of Austin, Watershed Protection Department, Environmental Officer	TX
Ethan Buckner	Earthworks, Energy Campaigner	CA
Jason Valandra	Bold Nebraska, Organizer	NE
Jeff Insko	Pipeline Safety Trust Board of Directors - Impacted Landowner	MI
Jenny Mandel	E&E News Reporter	DC
Josh Joswick	Earthworks Oil and Gas Accountability Project, Community organizer	CO
Kate Blystone	Pipeline Safety Trust, Outreach Manager	WA
Kevin Ong	Contra Costa County Health Services, Accidental Release Prevention Engineer	CA
Kristin Carpenter	Copper River Watershed Project, Executive Director	AK
Marie L. Kaufusi	Ute Indian Tribe Air Quality Program, Emission Specialist	UT

Mary Flanderka	Wyoming Outdoor Council, Policy Advocate	WY
Michael Dossey	Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials, Accidental Release Prevention Eng.	CA
Mike Soraghan	E&E News Reporter	DC
Natasha Leger	Citizens for a Healthy Community, Interim Executive Director	CO
Patty Cronheim	ReThink Energy NJ, Outreach Coordinator	NJ
Rita Beving	Clean Water Action, Outreach Coordinator	TX
Sara Gosman	Pipeline Safety Trust, VP & Professor University of Arkansas School of Law	AR
Shelley Robbins	Upstate Forever - Energy and State Policy Director	SC
Stephanie Scherr	ECHO Action & NH Pipeline Resistance, Director	NH
Travis Hallam	Three Affiliated Tribes Pipeline Authority, Pipeline Safety Officer	ND
Staff Attending		
Rebecca Craven	Program Director, Pipeline Safety Trust	WA
Carl Weimer	Executive Director, Pipeline Safety Trust	WA

3. Using our national contacts to enlist the participation of industry personnel and regulators who can communicate well, as well as have an interest in the concerns of those outside of the pipeline industry.

We also reached out to all the major pipeline associations (AGA, INGAA, API, AOPL, APGAA) and PHMSA and NAPSR to ensure participation by industry and regulatory experts on the last day of the training when we set aside half of the day for discussions of issues of interest to all parties. Space at the training facility is limited, so we needed to limit non-trainee participation to 5-7 individuals. Industry and regulatory participation was provided by:

- Alan Mayberry, Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety, PHMSA
- C.J. Osman, Director of Operations, Safety and Integrity, INGAA
- David Murk, Pipeline Manager, American Petroleum Institute
- Bill Byrd, President, RCP
- Mark Hereth, Managing Director, Process Improvement Performance Consultants
- Dr. Christie Murray, Director of Outreach and Engagement, Office of Pipeline Safety, PHMSA
- Stephanie Weidman, Pipeline Safety Program Manager, Railroad Commission of Texas

4. Arranging and coordinating travel in an efficient manner so these key individuals can afford to attend such training, which would normally be out of their ability to afford.

We negotiated a discounted rate at the Aloft Hotel in Downtown Houston (http://www.alofthoustondowntown.com/) which is within walking distance of the RCP training facility to help keep costs down. We directly arranged airline reservations for all trainees to ensure the timely use of discounted economy flights. Our contract with RCP also included the inclusion of breakfast and lunch for each day of the training, reducing expenses for participants. We provided a small stipend based on Houston GSA per diem rates for each participant to cover meals not otherwise covered, transport from the airport to the hotel, and transport and parking at their home airport.

5. Use the trust we have established over years of working with diverse stakeholder groups, and our well developed facilitation skills, to make the training a rich learning experience where all sides can safely discuss concerns.

We chose participants with a variety of experience, from a range of different types of organizations with differing goals and concerns about pipelines. We began to introduce them to each other via email and by collecting short biographies and descriptions of why they are interested in this training, along with questions they hope the training will answer. We arranged not only the training, but a couple of other more informal get-togethers in Houston for the participants to mingle amongst themselves and with the other stakeholders. We also chose industry and regulatory participants who are well spoken, interested in greater public engagement, and can represent their own stakeholder groups well.

The two and a half days of actual training was successful by all accounts, with participants praising Bill Byrd of RCP for his easy to understand explanations of complex subjects, and his patience and willingness to address endless questions. The differing questions and discussion between people with different perspectives – attorneys, environmental groups, tribal, local government – all help build greater understanding of the issues.

The final day's loosely controlled question and answer period with leadership from state and federal pipeline regulators, and industry associations provided a great closing to help demonstrate to all involved that while there may be differing views of a variety of pipeline issues, pipeline safety and improved public engagement are supported at the highest levels of the industry.

6. Provide an ongoing follow up system to allow participants from all the stakeholders to continue to communicate and learn from each other.

We set up an email listserv so participants in the training could communicate amongst themselves, with Bill Byrd at RCP, and to the regulators and industry members who took part in this effort. Training participants still ask RCP questions about how pipelines operate and regulatory requirement, and RCP continues to generously answer these inquiries. About a year after the training we encouraged the group to transition their participation to our larger safepipelines listserv, where more news stories and issues are covered.

We also, through additional fundraising to industry, made it possible for seven participants to attend our annual pipeline safety conference in New Orleans. As part of that conference we had a session that included discussion by various groups that took part in the Houston training talking about things they learned.

We also received grant extensions from PHMSA that allowed us to use about $4000 of excess money to help training participants and others attend the June 2019 Public Awareness and Engagement Workshop that PHMSA held at D.O.T. Headquarters in D.C. We arranged travel for these individuals based on the DC per diem rate, and arranged a block of hotel rooms at the Hampton Inn near National Airport at a rate within GSA requirements. Two of the trainees also took part in multiple discussions of ways to improve public engagement with industry and regulators that the Pipeline Safety Trust undertook with a PHMSA TA Grant in 2019.

7. Implement an evaluation system to inform ourselves, PHMSA, and all involved stakeholders of whether the benefits of such a training program outweighs the costs.

In January 2017 we designed and launched an online pre-test to obtain a basic idea of the level of understanding of pipeline safety basics for the selected trainees. The pre-test contained 15 questions, and the average score was 54.1% correct. When the same questions were asked a month after the training the average score was 65.3% correct.

We also had a follow up phone call with the industry associations and consultants who took part in the last day discussions with the trainees to assess their view on the training and those discussions. They were all very supportive of the training, and encouraged us to seek another round of training, and to expand the last day's discussion effort around public engagement issues.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information for this report.

Thanks for your assistance.

Carl Weimer, Executive Director
Pipeline Safety Trust